

United States Patent and Trademark Office

APPLICATION NO. FILING DATE FIRST NAMED INVENTOR ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CONFIRMATION NO. 10/633,213 08/01/2003 Thane Michael Larson 200311228-1 3229 22879 7590 06/01/2006 EXAMINER HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY P O BOX 272400, 3404 E. HARMONY ROAD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400 2133							
22879 7590 06/01/2006 EXAMINER HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY P O BOX 272400, 3404 E. HARMONY ROAD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER	APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CONFIRMATION NO.		
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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER				ALPHONSE, FRITZ			
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DATE MAILED: 06/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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	Application No.	(A	Applicant(s)			
Office Action Summers	10/633,213	1.10.	LARSON ET AL.			
Office Action Summary	Examiner		Art Unit			
	Fritz Alphonse		2133			
The MAILING DATE of this communication app Period for Reply	ears on the cover she	et with the c	orrespondence addre	ess -		
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DY - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.13 after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period v - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).	ATE OF THIS COMMI 36(a). In no event, however, m vill apply and will expire SIX (6), cause the application to become	UNICATION hay a reply be time MONTHS from me ABANDONE	N. nely filed the mailing date of this comm D (35 U.S.C. § 133).			
Status						
1)⊠ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>06 M</u>	arch 2006.					
2a) ☐ This action is FINAL . 2b) ☑ This	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
3) Since this application is in condition for allowar	nce except for formal	matters, pro	secution as to the m	erits is		
closed in accordance with the practice under E	Ex parte Quayle, 1935	C.D. 11, 45	53 O.G. 213.			
Disposition of Claims						
4)⊠ Claim(s) <u>1,4-10 and 13-27</u> is/are pending in the	• •					
4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdray	wn from consideration	•				
5) Claim(s) is/are allowed.						
6)⊠ Claim(s) <u>1, 4-10, 13-27</u> is/are rejected. 7)□ Claim(s) is/are objected to.						
8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/o	r election requirement	}				
		•				
Application Papers						
9) The specification is objected to by the Examine		_				
10)⊠ The drawing(s) filed on <u>01 August 2003</u> is/are: a)⊠ accepted or b)⊡ objected to by the Examiner.						
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).						
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correct 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Ex	·			• •		
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119						
12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:	priority under 35 U.S	.C. § 119(a))-(d) or (f).			
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.						
2. Certified copies of the priority document		, ,				
3. Copies of the certified copies of the prior	•	een receive	ed in this National St	age		
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).						
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list	or the certified copies	not receive	:a.			
Attachment(s)						
1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)		riew Summary				
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 	5) 🔲 Notic	r No(s)/Mail Da e of Informal P r:	ate Patent Application (PTO-1	52)		

DETAILED ACTION

0.1 This office action is in response to amendment filed on 3/06/2006. Claims 2, 3, 11, 12 are canceled, claims 1, 10, 27 are amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- 1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
 - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 2. Claims 1, 4-10, 13-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Olarig (U.S. Pat. No. 6,038,680) in view of Berney (U.S. Pat. No. 6,299,068).

As to claim 10, Olarig (figs. 1- 4) shows an apparatus to visually locate a memory module (55) in a memory system (37) with a plurality of memory modules (col. 2, lines 37-47), the apparatus comprising: a system board (see figure 4; col. 3, lines 26-45; col. 5, lines 32-47) including a memory controller (29) and a plurality of memory module slots (54) on the system board (i.e., motherboard 53, 57); and a plurality of memory modules seated in the plurality of memory module slots (fig. 4; col. 5, lines 48-55); and a beacon unit (i.e., registers 58) on a memory module with a beacon device and control circuitry for turning on the beacon device when an electronic communication to turn on the beacon device is received by that memory module (col. 6, lines 1-18).

Olarig differs from claim 10 in that he does not teach "the deacon device comprises an electromechanical device that remains activated even in the absence of power." However, the limitation is obvious and very well known in the art, as evidenced by Berney (see col. 29, lines 41-45).

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention to combine Olarig's system with the opto-electronic device, as disclosed by Berney. Doing so would provide highly reliable communication links among signals even after complete loss of power, and acknowledgements of all alarm and control messages.

As to claims 13-15, Olarig discloses an apparatus, wherein the memory modules comprise dual in-line memory modules (DIMMs); and, wherein the memory modules comprise single in-line memory modules (SIMMs). See column 5, lines 33-47.

As to claims 16-21, Olarig discloses an apparatus, wherein the system board comprises a computer motherboard; the system board comprises a cell board. Olarig (fig. 5) discloses an apparatus, further comprising a memory error interface unit (72) on the system board that is configured to send the appropriate electronic communication to the memory module (col. 5, lines 33-47).

As to claims 22-26, Olarig discloses an apparatus, wherein the beacon unit (i.e., registers 58) further comprises a second beacon device and control circuitry for turning on the second beacon device. The beacon device and the second beacon device are of different colors to visually distinguish them (col. 6, lines 1-18).

As to claim 27, Olarig (figs. 1-4) shows a system for visually locating a memory module, the system comprising: means for receiving an electronic communication by circuitry on the memory module to be visually located (col. 2, lines 20-28); means for activating a beacon state in the memory module due to receipt of the electronic communication (col. 6, lines 1-18); and means for electronically turning on a beacon

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device on the memory module when the beacon state is activated to draw attention to that memory module (col. 5, lines 49-54; col. 7, lines 59 through col. 8 line 3).

As to claim 1, method claim 1 corresponds to apparatus claim 10; therefore, it is analyzed as previously discussed in claim 10 above.

As to claims 4-5 Olarig (figs. 1-4) discloses a method, wherein the beacon state is activated by programming a flag bit in a register on the memory module (fig. 6; col. 9, lines 64 through col. 10 line 6).

As to claims 6-9, method claims 6-9 correspond to apparatus claim 10; therefore, they are analyzed as previously discussed in claim 10 above.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-27 have been considered but are most in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO-892

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to: (703) 872-9306 for all formal communications.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Fourth Floor (Receptionist).

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fritz Alphonse, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3813. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-6:00, Alt. Mondays off.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Albert De Cady, can be reached at (571) 272-3819.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or

proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571)

272-3824.

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May 26, 2006

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